(b) to (d) The scope of the Act is to cover various disabilities and not diseases. Therefore, disabilities occurring due to disease are included in the Act. It is not possible to indicate any time frame for amendment to the Act.

Drug abuse in Punjab

2896 SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that drug abuse amongst the youth in Punjab has reached an alarming proportion;

(b) if so, whether Government have any figures of drug addicts in the State; and

(c) whether steps are being taken to open drug de-addiction centres in the State under the Central Government Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) There is no authentic data about drug abuse in the State of Punjab.

(c) Yes, Sir. At present, 20 De-addiction Centres are functioning in various districts of the State.

Fund for construction of Ashram Shala Bhawan

†2897. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide funds for construction of Ashram Shala Bhawans;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals of Madhya Pradesh and other States, which are under consideration of the Central Government; and

(c) the reasons of their pendency and by when the funds would be released?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) Ministry of Tribal Affairs grants funds to State Governments on 50:50 basis towards the cost of construction under the scheme of Establishment of Ashram Schools in TSP areas.

(b) and (c) Proposals have been received from State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and UT Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for release of grant under the scheme during current financial year. An amount of Rs. 273.81 lakh has already been released to State Government of Madhya Pradesh under the scheme, during current financial year. The receipt of proposals from State Govemments/UT Administrations for release of grants-in-aid for construction of Ashram Schools is a continuous process. The grant-in-aid is released only if the proposal is complete in all respects *i.e.* availability of land free of cost, confirmation about availability of 50% State share, Utilization Certificate and physical progress reports in respect of proposals sanctioned in previous years and the availability of funds.

Scheme for educational complex in low literacy pockets

2898. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is implementing the scheme of educational complex in low literacy pockets for development of female literacy;

(b) if so, whether the said scheme is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, how many tribal girls have been provided with necessary assistance under the scheme during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the funds released during that period; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Ministry has been implementing through Non-governmental organisations/ autonomous societies of the State Governments, a gender specific scheme of educational complex in identified low literacy pockets in tribal areas including the areas of Andhra Pradesh for development of ST female literacy.

(c) and (d) The year-wise details of number of tribal girls benefited from the scheme and funds released for educational complexes in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is given the Statement (*See* below).

(e) Does not arise.